

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7077
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1450

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GAUS-HONECKER MEETING: MARGINALIA

REF: (A) BERLIN 4001 (B) BONN 11165

SUMMARY: MISSION HAS RECEIVED THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF JUNE 12 MEETING BETWEEN GAUS AND HONECKER, BASED APPARENTLY ON GAUS' TELEGRAPHIC REPORT TO BONN. WHILE GROUND COVERED IS LARGELY SAME AS TREATED REFTELS, MEDIA VERSION CONTAINS A FEW EXTRA DETAILS SUMMARIZED BELOW, NOTABLY ON ENERGY AND INTERSHOPS. END SUMMARY.

1. NORTH AUTOBAHN: HONECKER SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE PLANNED "GRAND SOLUTION," IN OTHER WORDS, THE AUTOBAHN CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN EISENACH AND BAD HERSFELD, FOR WHICH EAST BERLIN IS READY TO CONSTRUCT THE MISSING 30 KM, INCLUDING THE DM 90 MILLION WERRATAL BRIDGE, FOR A TOTAL OF DM 280 MILLION. HE RECOMMENDED GAUS SPEAK TO GDR STATE
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SECRETARY SCHALCK FROM TIME TO TIME IN ORDER THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE AN "OVERALL VIEW" OF THE MATTER.

2. BORDER TREATY: HONECKER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT A BORDER AGREEMENT COULD BE BROUGHT TO CONCLUSION UNDER COVER OF A MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT; OTHER LESS LOFTY SOLUTIONS WERE ALSO THINKABLE. HONECKER INDICATED

THAT THERE WAS AN "OPEN GABLE" FOR THE GDR ON THE ELBE WHICH, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS WAS ALSO THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN TWO MILITARY BLOCKS, WAS UNSATISFACTORY, EVEN THREATENING.

3. TRANSIT WATERWAYS: ACCORDING TO OUR ACCOUNT, HONECKER SAID THIS THEME NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED URGENTLY. THE FRG SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS IT WAS READY TO MAKE TO THE REPAIR WORK. OTHERWISE, THE GDR HAD ANNOUNCED, IT WOULD OBTAIN THE NECESSARY MONEY BY AN INCREASE IN FEES, IN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH GAUS AT GDR TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY, GDR HAD THREATENED FEE HIKE THREE TO FOUR TIMES. WITH HONECKER, ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN RAISED SO SHARPLY.

4. SALZGITTER: HONECKER TERMED THE WORK OF THE SALZGITTER OFFICE A DIRECT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR AND A VIOLATION OF THE BASIC TREATY. THE POSITION OF THE FRG THAT SALZGITTER WAS A MATTER FOR THE LAENDER COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.

5. INTERSHOPS: HONECKER WARNED THAT THIS WAS BEING REPORTED ABOUT IN THE WEST MEDIA TOO MUCH AND TOO NEGATIVELY, FOR INTERSHOPS WERE INTENDED TO FACILITATE VISITOR TRAVEL. THAT "A GDR AUNT WITH WEST MONEY CAN ALSO MAKE PURCHASES IN THESE STORES IS AN IMPROVEMENT, WHICH ONE CAN, HOWEVER, TAKE BACK AT ANY TIME." HE SAID.
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6. ENERGY: HONECKER SAID THE GDR WAS BASICALLY PREPARED TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY TO THE FRG FROM A POWER PLANT NEAR HALLE; A SEPARATE LINE WOULD SUPPLY POWER FROM THE HALLE PLANT TO WEST BERLIN. GEORGE

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